S.H. 44 Corridor Preservation Study

Draft Purpose and Need

The following Purpose and Need Statement is an initial draft. It will be refined based on information learned through the study process.

PURPOSE:

To protect State Highway 44 as a regional transportation corridor that allows safe and efficient travel between Interstate 84 and the City of Eagle.

NEED:

Forecasted regional growth, as well as local growth, will result in increased demand for multimodal travel options that may not be accommodated with existing infrastructure.

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Draft Purpose and Need

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires a "purpose and need statement" for proposed actions.

The **purpose** statement identifies the objectives to be achieved.

The **needs** statement identifies the problem that does, or will, exist.

The Purpose and Need Statement is not intended to propose a particular solution. It is used to:

- Define the problem and clarify the outcome

- Guide the development of a reasonable range of alternatives

- Develop criteria to measure the alternative solutions

- Justify alternatives moved forward during the screening process

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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

The NEPA process allows transportation officials to make project decisions that balance engineering and transportation needs with social, economic and natural environmental factors. During the process, a wide range of partners, including the public, businesses, interest groups and government agencies provide input into project and environmental decisions.

COMPASS
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION
of Southwest Idaho

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What is an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required by the NEPA for proposed federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. For S.H. 44, the proposed federal action could include the funding of right-of-way purchases, design or construction.

An EIS accomplishes the following:

- Discloses the project's purpose and need

- Describes alternative solutions

- Analyzes impacts to the human and natural environments

- Considers ways to mitigate for adverse impacts

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Environmental Process

Major Steps

Scoping
- Why is project being done?
- What are the range of solutions?
- How should alternatives be analyzed?

Identify Feasible Alternatives

Analyze Feasible Alternatives

Draft Evaluation Criteria

Design Alternatives for EIS

Prepare Draft EIS

Prepare Final EIS

Record of Decision

Public Processes

Scope Meeting

User Group Meetings

Public Meeting
- Alternatives
- Evaluation Criteria

User Group Meeting

Public Meeting
- Review screening results
- Community preferences

Public Hearing

User Group Meeting

Milestone Decisions

Screen out alternatives with serious regulatory problems or fatal flaws

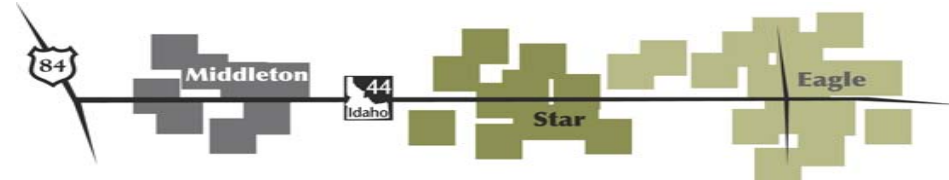Determine evaluation criteria based on project objectives

Short-list alternatives that score best with evaluation criteria

Identify preferred alternative

Affirm or modify preferred alternative or select another alternative

Local communities adopt corridor plan

Corridor Preservation Committee Meetings

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Environmental Factors

* Water resources
* Air quality
* Biological resources – including fish, wildlife and plant species
* Soils, geology, and mineral resources
* Visual, scenic or aesthetic resources

* Noise
* Historic and cultural resources
* Land use conflicts
* Agricultural resources
* Population and housing impacts
* Recreation
* Utilities and public services

* Likely to be important to the S.H. 44 study